

## Message Text

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12  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SAM-01 /047 W  
----- 066921

R 201617Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8297  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION NATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PO  
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: PROBLEMS DISTURB SUMMER CALM

REF: (A) LISBON 5534 (DTG 131545Z AUG 76), (B) LISBON 5691  
(DTG 191638Z AUG 76)

SUMMARY: LISBON'S VACATION-INDUCED CALM IS PERTURBED BY THE  
CONTINUING MANIFESTATIONS OF DISSENSION WITHIN THE MILITARY,  
THE NEED FOR TOUGH ECONOMIC MEASURES, AND THE THREAT OF  
FURTHER REVELATIONS IN THE OPORTOGATE CASE. END SUMMARY.

1. REACTION TO AIR FORCE BOYCOTT OF LOURENCO'S SWEARING IN  
(REF B): AIR FORCE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) MEMBER MAJ CANTO  
E CASTRO SAID SPECULATION OVER THE EVENT WAS "RIDICULOUS."  
HE HAD NOT ATTENDED BECAUSE HE WAS SICK. AIR FORCE CHIEF  
OF STAFF MORAIS DA SILVA, HOWEVER, WHEN PRESSED TO COMMENT,  
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SAID IT WAS A "MATTER OF DELICATE IMPLICATIONS." LOURENCO

HIMSELF PROFESSED NOT TO GIVE GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE AFFAIR AND DID NOT SEE THE AIR FORCE ATTITUDE AS DIRECTED AGAINST HIM PERSONALLY. DESPITE EFFORTS TO DOWNPLAY THE AFFAIR, IT CONTINUES TO BE A SUBJECT OF INTENSE SPECULATION IN LISBON POLITICAL CIRCLES. CDS SOURCES TOLD EMBOFF THAT AIR FORCE HAD CONSIDERED RENOMINATING FIRST AIR REGION COMMANDER PINHO FREIRE TO RC BUT NOW INTENDED TO NOMINATE FORMER LABOR MINISTER CPT TOMAS ROSA.

2. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND ECONOMIC MEASURES: FOLLOWING THE AUG 19 MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE GOP ANNOUNCED THAT PRIME MINISTER SOARES WOULD, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, ANNOUNCE MEASURES DEALING WITH ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, IN PARTICULAR THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. INDUSTRY MINISTER WALTER ROSA SAID ELECTRICITY CUTS WOULD BE RESUMED NEXT WEEK, AFTER THE TOURIST SEASON SUSPENSION. LABOR MINISTER CURTO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARING A DECREE LAW TO DEAL WITH ENTERPRISES BEING MANAGED BY EMPLOYEES.

3. OPORTOGATE: THE TENTH AND ELEVENTH ARRESTS WERE ANNOUNCED AUG 19 IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED OPORTO TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. JOAO MARTINS FERNANDES, A CONTRACTOR FROM PONTE DE LIMA IN VIANA DO CASTELO, AND DECIO SOTTOMAIOR, A BANK EMPLOYEE FROM VILA NOVA DE FAMALICAO IN BRAGA, ARE BEING HELD IN CAXIAS PRISON OUTSIDE LISBON.

4. MAGALHAES ON AZORES BASES: OUTGOING PRESIDENT OF THE AZOREAN REGIONAL JUNTA GEN ALTINO MAGALHAES MET AUG 19 WITH PRESIDENT EANES ON AZOREAN AFFAIRS. MAGALHAES TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE LAJES BASE AGREEMENT WILL BE RENEGOTIATED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF AZOREAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. HE SAID THAT IDENTICAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON THE FRENCH TELEMETRY STATION IN FLORES. MAGALHAES SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT ON THE AZORES ACOUSTIC RANGE IS, IN HIS OPINION, LIKELY TO END ON ITS OWN.

5. COUNCIL OF EUROPE: PORTUGAL, AUG 19, FORMALLY REQUESTED ADMISSION TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. THE LETTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA TO THE COUNCIL'S SECRETARY GENERAL NOTED THAT PORTUGAL'S ENTRY UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ATTRIBUTED TO A STRONG, UNITED, AND DEMOCRATIC EUROPE.

6. NEW "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" DIRECTOR: JOAO GOMES, A PARTY ACTIVIST AND FORMER EDITORIAL DIRECTOR FOR THE SOCIALIST-LINE NEWSPAPERS "REPUBLICA" AND "A LUTA," WAS NAMED

DIRECTOR OF THE LEADING MORNING DAILY, "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS." GOMES REPLACES VITOR CUNHA REGO, WHO HAS BECOME CABINET SECRETARY. GOMES, A SOCIALIST LEADER IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC, MADE AN IMPORTANT SPEECH ON THE MEDIA DURING THE DEBATE ON THE SOARES GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. GOMES WAS A CATHOLIC OPPOSITION LEADER DURING THE SALAZAR REGIME AND SERVED AS CHIEF OF PORTUGUESE TELEVISION'S (RTP) PROGRAM AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE APRIL 1974 COUP.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE LISBON'S VACATION-INDUCED CALM, THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IS PERTURBED BY THE CONTINUING MANIFESTATIONS OF DISSENSION WITHIN THE MILITARY, THE NEED FOR TOUGH ECONOMIC MEASURES, AND THE THREAT OF FURTHER REVELATIONS IN THE OPORTOGATE CASE.  
CARLUCCI

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## Message Attributes

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